

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD
CITY HALL CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS – 1ST FLOOR
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
AUGUST 22, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 1/2011 through 12/2011	
		Present	Absent
Jon Albee, Chair	P	7	1
Alena Alberani, Vice Chair	P	7	1
Anthony Abbate	P	7	1
Valarie Amor [arrived 6:45]	P	2	0
Jaime Castoro [arrived 6:54]	P	7	1
Cathy Curry	P	3	0
Vicki Eckels	P	8	0
William Goetz	P	7	1
Dana Pollitt	P	4	3
Rebecca J. Walter	A	6	2

Also Present

Todd Hiteshew, Staff Liaison
 Susanne Torriente, Assistant City Manager
 D'Wayne Spence, Assistant City Attorney
 Diane Alarcon, Parking and Fleet Services
 Heather Steyn, WaterWorks 2011
 Heike Naigur, Energy Manager
 Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, ProtoType, Inc.

Communications to the City Commission

None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Albee.

2. Roll call – Introductions

Roll was called and it was determined a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 2011

The Board noted changes to the minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Abbate, seconded by Ms. Eckels, to approve the Board's July minutes as amended. In a voice vote, Board unanimously approved.

4. Staff Liaison Report

- EECBG

Mr. Hiteshew said they were implementing the projects and a new round of workshops was planned. The contractor event had done very well the previous week. Mr. Hiteshew stated a workshop for City employees would be held in September and there would be an event on October 22 at Cinema Paradiso celebrating National Energy Efficiency Month.

- Action Item Spreadsheet

Mr. Hiteshew described changes to the spreadsheet.

- Visioning Committee

Mr. Hiteshew informed the Board that he was working to get the new Chair of the Visioning Committee to attend an SAB meeting. Mr. Hiteshew stated Ms. Alberani had attended the Visioning Committee meeting to discuss sustainability with the consultant.

- SAP Timeline

Mr. Hiteshew said Ms. Naigur had received comments from Board members. He anticipated a draft would be available the first week in September for staff and the Board would be updated on September 26. They would present the final SAP to the City Commission on December 6.

- FPL New Port Everglades Plant

Mr. Hiteshew suggested FPL be invited to give a report to the Board on the new plant. The Board agreed.

Ms. Amor arrived at 6:45.

- ISO 50001

Mr. Hiteshew explained this was a new energy management standard. He had spoken to Mr. Farmer, President of Third Planet, and they were considering a conference call in October. The Board agreed.

Mr. Hiteshew informed Dr. Goetz that approximately half of the \$2 million in EECBG grants had been spent, on two hybrid bucket trucks, fuel efficiency monitoring software, the demonstration center and the Smart Watts Program. He agreed to provide the Board with a breakdown of the distribution.

5. New Business

- Code Violations/Building Permits – Valerie Amor

The language Ms. Amor had drafted had been distributed to Board members. Mr. Spence explained that the Building permit process was dictated by State statute. He stated there were already existing penalties for this type of violation, and those accused

had access to due process. Dr. Goetz said municipalities were allowed to make their permitting process more restrictive, but Mr. Spence said the Building Code was different from other ordinances; the amendment process must be pursued with the Florida Building Commission. Mr. Abbate stated amendments must also be presented to the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals.

At 6:54 Ms. Castoro arrived.

Ms. Amor informed Mr. Spence that the City was having problems enforcing the existing code and asked Mr. Spence how they could increase enforcement. Ms. Alberani suggested they concentrate more on the education aspect.

Dr. Goetz thought the idea was to not issue any additional permits to properties that had unresolved violations. Mr. Spence explained that the two were not tied together, and they should consider how to strengthen the system and streamline the manner in which violations were handled.

Mr. Abbate asked about Palm Beach County's enforcement of the beach lighting ordinance. Mr. Richard Whitecloud, Director of Sea Turtle Oversight Protection, stated Palm Beach County had a no tolerance policy regarding coastal lighting. He explained that Boca Raton had a dedicated environmental task force within their Code Enforcement Department. They also worked with the Building and Inspections Department to ensure buildings were in compliance. Mr. Whitecloud remarked that follow-through had been a major issue; the code was perfect as long as it was used when it needed to be.

Dr. Goetz suggested that all stakeholders meet to discuss the lighting issue. Ms. Torriente explained how Code Officers were addressing the problem, and requested a month to meet with the City Attorney's office and bring some possible solutions back to the Board. She wanted to look into what other municipalities did as well.

Ms. Eckels stated the code had existed for eight years and was not being enforced. She said it was reasonable for Code Enforcement to spend a couple of years trying to get voluntary compliance through education, but to still be doing that at year eight of the Ordinance was not acceptable to this Board. Ms. Eckels wondered why Fort Lauderdale had such a lax attitude toward enforcement, while other communities took it very seriously. Ms. Alberani said there were other issues as well, such as plantings and buffer zones to block car lights on the beach. She agreed they should investigate what other municipalities did.

Chair Albee agreed with Ms. Torriente's offer to return in one month with information she would gather.

Motion made by Mr. Abbate, seconded by Ms. Castoro, to table this item until the Board's next meeting.

Chair Albee stated tabling this would also table discussion of the letter Ms. Walter had written.

In a voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

- Sunshine and Ethics Issues regarding Lobbying

Dr. Goetz asked where the line was drawn regarding lobbying by individual Board members and by the Board as a whole. Ms. Eckels explained she had forwarded an email regarding the cost of permitting to Board members. Mr. Spence explained the Sunshine rules regarding email communications. Mr. Abbate advised Board members to send all correspondence to Mr. Hiteshew to determine if it was appropriate to distribute to other Board members. Mr. Spence said the City relied on the liaison to determine whether communication presented a Sunshine issue.

Dr. Goetz clarified that Mr. Teich had indicated the email represented a lobbying effort, it did not breach the Sunshine Law. Ms. Eckels did not understand why Mr. Teich felt this was lobbying.

Chair Albee agreed that Board members should only accept information channeled through the liaison.

6. Old Business

- Sea Turtle letter from Board – Rebecca Walter

Tabled with a previous New Business item.

- DRC Sustainability Review – Valerie Amor

Ms. Amor recommended DRC reviews include lighting, energy efficiency and other environmental issues. Chair Albee suggested Ms. Amor draft suggestions. Mr. Abbate preferred incentivizing compliance over punishing non-compliance. He suggested a Sustainability Award Program, which had been successful in other communities. Ms. Amor said the DRC process could include a questionnaire with a list of options that might be considered in a project. The answers would not result in a project being denied; it would make the applicant aware of the options.

Mr. Pollitt agreed with the idea of a Sustainability Award and agreed to provide language regarding this. Mr. Hiteshew thought the Community Appearance Board was investigating sustainability and he agreed to speak to that board's liaison.

Ms. Alberani said incentives were discussed in the SAP. Mr. Eckels thought the Building Department was reviewing permit fees. She referred to San Francisco's Energy Disclosure Law that required projects to indicate their energy ratings. Mr.

Hiteshew informed her that this was in the SAP. Ms. Eckels wanted the Board to review it.

Ms. Castoro wanted to get a Sustainability Award Program started, and Mr. Abbate stated the Board could develop the criteria.

- SAP Update – Carbon Solutions America

Ms. Naigur had received 150 comments and recommended that any further comments Board members sent should be very specific. She had a list of all of the comments and her responses indicating what had been changed. Ms. Naigur recommended the Board select a list of their top five or ten recommendations.

Other Items and Announcements

Mr. Abbate announced that Dr. Leonard Berry would conduct a workshop on sea level rise and the urban environment in the Spring.

Mr. Abbate was trying to schedule Dr. Baki Iz from the Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute, an expert in the measurement of sea level rise and change, to attend a Board meeting or a separate workshop.

Dr. Goetz announced that the following day, Dr. Nancy Gassman from Broward County would give a presentation to the Commission concerning how sea level rise was relevant to Fort Lauderdale.

Ms. Amor announced that Broward County had just initiated an appliance rebate program. She agreed to forward information to Mr. Hiteshew.

7. Communications to the City Commission

None

8. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Next meeting date: September 26, 2011

Attachments:

Minutes – July 2011

[Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]